

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. A catheter unit comprising:

2       a needle; and

3       an elongated blunting member coupled to a flash chamber and to a safety member, the  
4       blunting member having a blunt distal tip and an opened proximal end for allowing blood to  
5       flow generally directly to a porous member seated within a member at the proximal end of the  
6       blunting member;

7               the blunting member having a hollow lumen therebetween extending longitudinally  
8       through the blunting member, the blunting member being disposed coaxially within the bore of  
9       the needle.

1 2. The catheter unit of claim 1, wherein the porous member is functionally open allowing  
2       fluid from a patient to exit the catheter unit after thirty seconds of blood entering the flash  
3       chamber.

1 3. The catheter unit of claim 1, wherein the flash chamber has a proximal end and a distal  
2       end and a porous member is attached to distal end of the flash chamber.

1 4. The catheter unit of claim 3, wherein the porous member is removable.

1 5. The catheter unit of claim 3, wherein the porous member is approximately in the range  
2       of 35% to 55% of porosity.

1 6. An intravascular assembly, the assembly comprising:

2           a tubular introducer sheath having a proximal end, a distal end and a hollow lumen  
3       extending longitudinally therethrough;  
4           a needle having a sharpened distal tip and a hollow bore extending longitudinally  
5       therethrough, the needle being disposed coaxially within the lumen of the introducer sheath;  
6           an elongated blunting member having a hollow lumen extending longitudinally  
7       therethrough without apertures and having an opened proximal end and a blunt distal tip, the  
8       elongated blunting member being disposed coaxially within the bore of the needle;  
9           the blunting member being axially moveable from a non-blunting position wherein the  
10      blunt distal tip of the blunting member is positioned within the bore of the needle a spaced  
11      distance proximal to the sharpened distal tip of the needle, to a distally advanced blunting  
12      position wherein the blunt distal tip of the blunting member protrudes out of and beyond the  
13      sharpened distal tip of the needle.

1      7.     The assembly of claim 6, wherein an at least partially transparent flash chamber is  
2       formed on the proximal end of the blunting member; and, wherein the blunting apparatus  
3       further comprises:  
4           a lumen which extends longitudinally through the blunting member;  
5           the assembly being thereby operative such that when the distal end of the needle  
6       enters a vessel, such that fluid enters the bore of the needle and passes through the needle and  
7       then enters the lumen of the blunting member and exits the blunting member by entering the  
8       flash chamber, such that the presence of blood within the flash chamber is visible through at  
9       least a transparent portion of the flash chamber and whereby the fluid may contact a porous  
10      member which is coupled to a housing for the blunting member.

1    8.    The catheter unit of claim 6, wherein the porous member is functionally open allowing  
2    fluid from a patient to exit the catheter unit after thirty seconds of blood entering the flash  
3    chamber.

1    9.    A catheter comprising  
2         a needle;  
3         an elongated blunting member coupled to the needle and to a stopper, the blunting  
4         member causing blood to flow generally directly to a stopper, the stopper is coupled to a  
5         chamber.

1    10.    The catheter of claim 9, wherein the stopper is porous.

1    11.    The catheter of claim 9, wherein the stopper is removable.

1    12.    The catheter of claim 9, wherein the stopper has porosity approximately in the range  
2         of 35% to 55%.

1    13.    The catheter unit of claim 9, wherein the porous member is functionally open allowing  
2    fluid from a patient to exit the catheter unit after thirty seconds of blood entering the flash  
3    chamber.

ADD a3>

ADD B2>